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ABSTRACT

The report discusses the implementation by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) of the concrete program of measures and activities proposed by the Regional Plan of Action for Latin America and the Caribbean for the International Youth Year. The central objectives of the Plan are to create greater awareness concerning the situation of young people, recognizing their rights and expectations, promoting policies and programs relating to youth in the framework of integrated development, stimulating active participation of youth, and promoting ideals of peace, respect, and understanding. The report summarizes ECLAC's activities in six sections: (1) "Background: the legislative context of the International Youth Year"; (2) "National Studies"; (3) "Technical Meetings and Seminars," which include events organized by ECLAC and contributions by ECLAC to other seminars; (4) "Methodologies for the study of youth"; (5) "Some priority issues," which include youth and culture, youth and education, and the young woman; and (6) "Other activities," which include studies and publications, special events, technical assistance missions, and plans for future meetings. (TRS)

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Second Latin American and Caribbean Regional Meeting for the International Youth Year

Montevideo, 26-30 August 1985

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR: ACTIVITIES OF ECLAC IN FULFILMENT OF THE REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION

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/1. Background:

1. Background: the legislative context of the International Youth Year

As pointed out in the study on the situation and prospects of young people in Latin America and the Caribbean submitted for consideration by governments at the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the International Youth Year, held in San José, Costa Rica, in October 1983,1/ this is not the first occasion on which ECLAC has devoted its attention to the topic of youth. During the Latin American Conference on Children and Youth in National Development, organized jointly with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), ECLAC identified as far back as 1965 two central pivots around which the topic of youth revolves, namely: concern over the situation of contemporary youth, and the wish to foresee the future as concealed in current experience.2/

Coinciding with the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples and the fifteenth anniversary of the United Nations Volunteer Programme, the General Assembly designated 1985 as the International Youth Year and established an Advisory Committee for the same.3/ The Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year proposed a concrete programme of measures and activities, the central objectives of which are to create greater awareness concerning the situation of young people, recognize their rights and expectations, promote policies and programmes relating to youth in the framework of integrated development, stimulate the active participation of young people, and promote the ideals of peace, mutual respect and understanding among the peoples of the world. The activities devoted to achieving these objectives include the development and execution of innovative policies, in particular in the spheres of education, employment, housing, health and social services; the mobilization of resources for their implementation, and the promotion of participation by the young, bearing especially in mind the channels of communication between them and the United Nations.

The activities of the International Youth Year are viewed as being carried out on three planes: international, regional and national. For activities in the second of these planes the work of the regional committees is judged to be fundamental. The need to establish regional goals is also envisaged.

Within this framework, ECLAC drew up in 1983 a study on the situation of youth and their prospects in the region, together with a draft Regional Plan of Action and, in October of the same year, acting in conjunction with the Secretariat for the International Youth Year of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (CSDHA), convened the first Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the International Youth Year with a view to enlisting the effective participation of the countries of the region in preparations for that Year.4/

/The Regional

The Regional Meeting emphasized the youthful character of Latin America. It viewed the young as bearers of criticisms of ruling social systems and of ideas tending to promote changes in society, and stressed this character in respect of the construction of a new society and the establishment of new economic and social schemes in the current critical economic circumstances of recession and uncertainty with regard to the future, which make it imperative to generate new development styles based on equity, development, participation and peace. The work of the meeting was carried out at three main levels: a) that of promoting the topic of youth; b) that of arousing sensitivity in public opinion and awakening a critical consciousness in the matter, and c) examination of the situation of young people in regional and national terms and the formulation of strategies aiming to achieve the full incorporation of youth in the social process, reflected in plans, programmes, policy guides and technical advisory services of various kinds. In so far as the first and second levels are concerned since the first Regional Meeting non-governmental organisms and youth organizations have shown clear interest in the subject, in their active participation, and in the possibility of enrichment deriving from joint effort. In this connection, the co-ordinating role that the regional committees were called upon to carry out has been fully successful and has proved to be an innovating experience in the work of the United Nations. With regard to the third level --that of examining Latin American realities and the situation of its young people-- the topic was linked with the process of constant renovation of society and was viewed as one of the central pivots of thought concerning the future, especially in the light of the crisis currently affecting the region. Specific aspects were discussed, and reached the point of defining a profile of current Latin American youth. The significance of demographic aspects of juvenile participation in the sphere of employment, the growing employment of young women, problems of employment and unemployment, educational change, health and rehabilitation, young groups in situations of deprivation and marginality, the impoverished rural and urban youth, the social participation of youth and their training as a means of development, were some of the aspects dealt with in statements and working groups.

As established in resolution 36/28 of the General Assembly, bearing in mind regional conditions and priorities, and in accordance with the relevant recommendations formulated in the concrete programme of measures and activities to be undertaken before and during the International Youth Year, the meeting drew up a Regional Plan of Action for Latin America and the Caribbean for the International Youth Year 5/ which was approved by consensus. The Plan of Action links a strategy for youth in Latin America and the Caribbean with a global strategic concept of regional development, and includes this in the context of the three central topics of the Year, namely participation, development and peace.

As regards specific policies, action is proposed in respect of certain categories of young people, for incorporation in a regional strategy for youth. Among the objectives of development, the strategy defines as of particular significance for the young the attainment of equity in the distribution of the fruits of development and the achievement of a degree of social dynamism which will enable the incorporation and the full participation of all persons in all aspects of social life, together with co-operation among nations and regional integration with a view to ensuring the maintenance of peace and the establishment of a new sense of values. All these development objectives consider the young as their central element.

/The strategy

The strategy proposed in the Plan refers to the processes of integration needed to achieve those objectives, mechanisms for the development of young people in economic affairs, social policies in general, action in the spheres of education and culture, and the participation of the younger generation. The actions proposed on the basis of this strategy are formulated at the national, regional and international levels, three stages being envisaged for their implementation: the first, of a preparatory nature (1983-1984), was viewed as a period of promotion and of preparation for the adoption of decisions; the second --that of the International Youth Year itself-- as an impact of that promotion; and the last (1986-1995) as a stage of application of policies and of appraisal and reformulation as may be necessary.

It is within this framework, and on the basis of actions at the regional level as envisaged in the Plan, that ECLAC has carried out its activities relating to youth since the first Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the International Youth Year. On that occasion, and in addition to other tasks whose fulfilment will be referred to hereunder, ECLAC was requested to convene a second regional meeting in 1985 in order to examine the activities carried out and consider new orientations for the following stage.

It should be noted that, during the first stage, the Regional Preparatory Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, was held in Havana, Cuba, from 19 to 23 November 1984. This event ratified the recommendations of the Plan of Action for Youth in so far as the part dealing with young women in Latin America and the Caribbean is concerned. Thus, in appraising the Decade and formulating strategies and measures for the future, the topic of measures relating to young women in the region is dealt with as of fundamental significance, thereby reinforcing the recommendations contained in the Plan with regard to actions at the regional level.6/

Prior to this --but during the same stage-- the twentieth session of ECLAC, held in Lima, Peru, from 28 March to 6 April 1984, approved the Regional Plan of Action, which was submitted for its consideration, as prescribed in the Plan of Action itself.

In accordance with the directives and guidelines laid down in the Plan for the preparatory stage, ECLAC has carried out its activities in this period on the basis of the view that the topic of youth forms part of the general scheme of regional development. Care has been taken to ensure that the tasks performed are of a unifying character and that they fulfill a large number of objectives. The national diagnostic studies --carried out by experts in the countries concerned-- made possible co-ordination with a variety of national entities and have subsequently led to the organization of technical, national and subregional seminars, thereby giving clear and immediate form to horizontal co-operation in this sphere. ECLAC has furthermore prepared global frames of reference for the region with a view to interpreting the situation of young people. These outlines have led to the provision of technical assistance to the countries and to co-operation in the design of policy guidelines. The results of the seminars, meetings and studies carried out have been disseminated after each event with a

/view to

view to reinforcing knowledge and stimulating the awareness of public opinion with regard to the topic. The action of ECLAC in this period has involved several of its departments --including those concerned with the direction and orientation of the work of the Organization, teams of professional experts in the subject, press teams, consultants and experts. At the same time, activities of differing scope have been carried out involving the maximum number of users. The present report aims to provide an overall view of the main tasks undertaken, their orientation and the more significant topics dealt with.

In this respect two documents may also be consulted, namely LC/L.344(Conf.78/3) on Latin American youth at a time of change and crisis, and LC/L.346(Conf.78/5) dealing with orientations for future policies to complement the Regional Plan of Action for Latin America and the Caribbean for the International Youth Year. The first of these documents updates former diagnoses, the topic of youth being linked with the problem of the crisis and attention being focused on measures of change which would enable that crisis to be met. The second document explains and supplements the Regional Plan of Action approved in 1983.

2. National studies

In the preparatory stage of the International Youth Year, ECLAC started to carry out national diagnostic studies of the situation of youth. At the time of the Second Regional Meeting on the topic, the studies relating to Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay had been completed. These and other national studies to be carried out in future fulfil a number of objectives consistent with those specified for this stage of the Plan of Action, namely:

a) To obtain information on the diversity of national and subregional situations where youth is being incorporated in society, the problems and difficulties arising from this incorporation, and key factors that should be considered in this connection in national and regional policies.

b) To enrich the stock of knowledge that ECLAC is able to transmit to government organizations responsible for youth policies and to non-governmental organizations actively involved in the topic.

c) To supply basic information to national, regional and subregional meetings where the situation of youth is discussed.

d) To promote a common methodology for the preparation of diagnoses which, because of their basic character, may be of use to governments and organizations interested in the matter.

The national studies were entrusted to specialists in each country with academic and technical experience in the topic of youth. Due to their exploratory nature and the fact that they cover a number of topics concerning which previous official information does not in general exist, the studies were undertaken with complete analytical freedom. Their conclusions must consequently be regarded as contributions to knowledge, rather than as interpretations adopted by the ECLAC Secretariat.

/A general

A general perusal of the various national studies enables the conclusion to be reached that --with differing degrees of emphasis, given the diversity of approaches and situations in the countries concerned-- they reiterate certain topics which may be summarized as follows:

a) The demographic dimension, including population size, the proportion of young people in the total population, their geographic distribution, and internal and international migrations;

b) The family dimension, including family organization, the socialization capacity of the family, cultural gaps between generations, types of family (rural, urban, integrated or marginal), family formation among the young, specific situations of young women in the family, pregnancy and early family formation;

c) The educational levels of youth, with reference to the effects of expansion of the education system, its homogeneity and segmentation, education according to social groups, and the adaptation of schools to the instruction of mass social sectors;

d) Employment, taking into account the occupations of youth, age differences in commencing work according to social groups, work by young women, specific sectors of activity in which the young take part, the relationship between education and types of employment, and employment and underemployment problems according to sex, education and social group;

e) Exclusion and social marginality, with reference to rural youth excluded from the effects of change, under-privileged excluded and exploited urban youth, the socio-cultural conditions of underprivileged or working-class youth, specific social reproduction problems, educational exclusion, lack of social incorporation and other related aspects;

f) Highly-educated youth, taking into account the effect of changes in the university, the decline of the élitist nature of higher education, the social origins of university students, social and political contradictions among those students, differences of income of young people according to their education, and the role of this sector of youth as social actors;

g) Young women, considering educational advancement or permanence in traditional roles, forms of female incorporation in the context of the family and employment, different types of status of women according to social group, contradictions between young women and their mothers' generation, etc.;

h) Political participation, including relationships between generations, political options and generational conflicts, the historical tradition of juvenile social movements, possible aspects of current juvenile movements, their forms of political participation and electoral behaviour;

i) Anomic behaviour, with reference to delinquency, drug addiction, and attitudes of rejection or disinterest with regard to the social system;

/j) Culture,

j) Culture, involving juvenile cultural expression, internationalism, local cultural manifestations, and space for cultural creativity;

k) Attention given to the young, taking into account the health and sanitary services situation, housing opportunities, support for juvenile projects, and co-operative labour and production organizations;

l) Youth and the future: uncertainty concerning the future, lack of a clear view of change, concern for youth as a reflection of that uncertainty, the relationship of society with the young and the expansive effects and exhaustion of the modernization cycle;

m) Social integration and action guidelines, involving the preparation of problem summaries, consideration of the transformation of society and the participation of youth, the precariousness of the situation of youth, the economic crisis and its effects on the young, progressive and conservative trends, and some possible lines of action in connection with the young.

Each study has emphasized particular topics, depending upon the availability of information and the nature of national problems. Generally speaking, and given the lack of empirical national research, it has been difficult adequately to consider the situation of working-class rural and urban marginal young people, although it is they who show the greatest lack of instruction, the greatest difficulty in becoming socially integrated, and the least capacity for developing as social actors.

The study on youth in Argentina 7/ highlights the consolidation of a severely stratified social structure, diminishing industrialization, and the decline of political and labour mobilization as some fundamental processes in recent years. The study examines the effects of those processes, and of others, on socialization --within and outside the family-- and on juvenile education. It also identifies the main activities of young people and poses questions as to possible lines of action to broaden their chances of participation in national democratic development, the position of the State being emphasized among other social and political agents.

The study on Bolivia,8/ emphasizes the diversity of juvenile sectors in the country as defined by class, ethnic origin and type. The employment situation among the young is referred to as a factor of importance, their place in production being considered a determining factor in their social conduct. Employment is analysed from two points of view: from that of the elements in the process of development that encourage the young to seek work, and that of the characteristics of youth employment in terms of integration, type of activity and spatial concentration. The topic of education is also dealt with in an effort to identify educational opportunities for Bolivian youth. The current situation of juvenile movements in the country is examined, some criticisms being made with regard to their orientation; and the role of university students is emphasized. The attitude of the State towards the nation's young people is then examined, and principles are proposed for policies that respect the autonomy of youth. Special consideration is given to the topic of young women in Bolivia, and reference is finally made to aspects of culture and values, concerning which information has so far been largely unavailable.

/The document

The document on Brazil 9/ points out that the trends of change noted over the last 30 years became more acute in the 1970s and other changes were added such as the decline in fertility, the increase in the number of young people and women in the economically-active city population, intense penetration by the mass communication media, and the spread of new patterns of consumption. The current recessive decade, on the other hand, began with an increase in unemployment levels, growing underemployment and deterioration of the living standards of the working sectors. Two related aspects are examined in connection with the recent process of change: the role of the young in the recent development of social stratification in Brazil, and its impact on the dissemination of the identity of "youth" in society. After analysing the notion of youth, information is provided on the dimensions and distribution of the young population and the employment activities in which most young people are engaged. The process of wider access to education is examined, and the youth/family relationship is analysed in terms of solidarity and discord.

The document on Colombia 10/ centres attention on the relationship between youth and society and its form of development. After referring to the rapid expansion of the modernizing model and its early debilitation and short duration, the report reviews the effects of rapid change and the sudden anxiety about the future. It is noted that, as from the 1970s, a phenomenon of weakening of the concept of youth has emerged due to the exhaustion of the modernizing model and the lack of a new pattern of society capable of revitalizing industrial urban life. Such phenomena contribute to the development of a sense of lack of future among the young. In this context, the report includes some demographic indicators on the importance of the younger generation, summarizes the family, school and work background, describes the situation of youth, and endeavours to recapitulate the significance of the general social process and its influence on the young.

The study on Chile 11/ offers a diagnosis of the situation of Chilean youth in the current decade, centering attention on the process of social exclusion. An analysis is made of problems deriving from economic stagnation, the contradiction between demographic and educational trends on the one hand (which contribute to making Chilean youth one of the central actors in the development process), and economic trends on the other, the latter acting in a contrary direction. Structural transformations of defined social positions according to occupation are analysed, together with the emergence of a new segmentation of labour markets accessible to the young. Finally, the consequences of these features are reviewed from the point of view of social integration in the light of two situations: that of juvenile rebellion and that of the weakening of the integration of youth.

The study on Ecuador 12/ analyses the effects of the rapid expansion of schooling in the past twenty years on the social stratification of Ecuadorian youth, especially under urban conditions. A method is suggested which is designed to overcome the limitations of stratification studies based primarily on occupational data, and it is remarked, for example, that whereas in 1962 the highest level of instruction was reached at the age of 15, after six years of study, this level was attained in 1982 at 21 years of age after 11 years of study. The report shows that the age of incorporation into the labour force is a key factor in the determination of the present and future social position of young people, given the current association between occupational careers and educational levels.

/In the

In the case of Peru 13/ the analysis examines in depth the changes which have taken place in the lower-earning sectors and the political models prevailing in the country in the 1970s. Prominence is given to the sensitization of young people in those sectors during the above-mentioned transformations and to the repesentational role assumed by them in the transitional phase that took place in that period in the country. The organizational processes of different political groups are reviewed, together with their significance in the national scene. These processes are also linked with the economic deterioration reflected in the crisis which began in 1976 and has continued to grow in severity up to the present time. Within this framework, the position of the young --i.e., of those most directly affected by the effects of recession and difficulties of participation-- appears to have become static.

The study on Uruguay 14/ analyses the topic of youth on the basis of the principal events of the past 20 years and of the current stage of transition towards democracy. Growth rates are reviewed, together with the migratory flows from rural to urban districts and to other countries, the aged structure of the country's population, and the lack of sustained development of the young, especially in the 15 to 19 age group. The study goes on to examine changes in the family, its size and its role in the socialization of the young. Finally, the report underlines central aspects of the education system and of employment, and highlights the significance of the student movement, especially at university level.

3. Technical meetings and seminars

In fulfilment of the tasks prescribed in the Regional Plan of Action for the preparatory stage of the International Youth Year, which include actions of sensitization of public opinion and training at various levels, ECLAC has attached primary importance to participation in technical meetings and seminars and has lent substantial support to these events, together with technical assistance in matters relating to youth. Some of these meetings have been organized by ECLAC itself, and others have been carried out in conjunction with the International Youth Year Secretariat or in collaboration with other institutions. ECLAC has also taken part in meetings sponsored by other bodies to which it has made contributions through the medium of substantive and technical professional personnel.

a) Events organized by ECLAC

A Co-ordination Meeting of International Agencies in support of Latin American and Caribbean Activities for the International Youth Year was organized by ECLAC and held in Lima, Peru, on 31 March 1984. The event was attended by 10 international, intergovernmental and specialized bodies of the United Nations system, its purpose being to review the preparatory activities carried out by each, identify specific action areas, centralize information, encourage the governments to draw up diagnoses with regard to youth, establish co-ordination committees, and prepare national strategies appropriate to the topic. The meeting highlighted the points of linkage between the various programmes, the subject areas not dealt with owing to the specialized fields of action of the participating bodies, and the possibilities of reciprocal co-operation, in addition to discussing the activities carried out by each body in connection with the young.

/The situation

The situation of young women has been dealt with in discussions since preparations were first undertaken for the International Youth Year. During the United Nations Decade for Women, ECLAC identified or gave fuller consideration to certain topics of importance for the Latin American region, for which purpose it had before it studies concerning women in the urban popular sector and in rural areas and other related matters. With a view to carrying out a further examination of the situation of young women in the region, ECLAC organized a seminar held at its headquarters between 3 and 5 December 1984, entitled "Young women: problems and preliminary experiences". Approximately 15 specialists from the region participated in this event. They analysed the topic of the condition of youth in the region within an interpretative framework embracing the discussion of opportunities for the incorporation of young Latin American women in their corresponding communities, and the significance of symbolic dimensions in the composition of the identity of women and consequently in their participatory ability. Some national profiles were examined in this context (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and --later-- Bolivia) and global information was supplemented by reference to qualitative experiences in the life of young women of different socio-economic sectors and dissimilar ethnic backgrounds.15/

With the object of analysing the national diagnoses of youth in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Peru and Uruguay, and of exchanging experiences and discussing specific topics, ECLAC, acting in conjunction with the International Youth Year Secretariat of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (CSDHA), convened a Technical Seminar on Youth, which was held in Buenos Aires from 26 to 28 June 1985 under the auspices of the Secretariat of Human Development and the Family of the Argentine Ministry of Social Welfare and Health. The seminar examined the situation of youth with a view to gaining more knowledge of this topic at the national and regional levels and supporting governmental and non-governmental actions in this field. ECLAC's contribution at the meeting consisted of submitting the national studies and an up-dated regional outline on the subject. Through workshop discussions, some significant aspects were given prominent consideration, such as the formation and training of young people, juvenile employment and social pathological conditions.

Continuing the discussion on the main problems affecting the juvenile world, with a view to defining basic elements for national youth policies, ECLAC, [illegible] and CSDHA have jointly organized a seminar on national youth policies, for government officials of the countries of the Andean area, to be held in September 1985 in Colombia. The seminar is expected to last five days and it is hoped to cover the following topics: a) the crisis in Latin America: appraisal and prospects (salient aspects of the economic crisis); b) the social situation in the region: recent changes in social stratification and mobility, the current crisis and its differentiated effects on the various social segments, the recession and social policies, and discussion of social policies; c) youth as a social category and as a social movement (youth and political projects, civil society and youth); d) juvenile participation in development (patterns and trends of juvenile participation; institutional mechanisms and institutional co-ordination); e) national youth policy (linkage with development strategies and political models, contemporary experience in this

/respect in

respect in the Andean region, basic juvenile problems that need to be considered, formulation of a national youth policy, youth sub-groups); and f) The International Youth Year (regional, global and international objectives, preparatory and follow-up activities, possibilities of regional co-operation in the sphere of youth).

The topic of youth has also been followed with interest in the Caribbean area. At the last two sessions of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC), held in Port-au-Prince (6 to 12 June 1984) and Port of Spain (29 May to 5 June 1985), studies were made of proposals regarding the establishment of a school of university studies on applied social anthropology, the extension of studies on youth to all the CDCC countries, and the interchange of students of medicine, economy and agronomy. Particularly worthy of mention in this context is a comprehensive project on youth in the Caribbean which will be carried out in conjunction with the United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and will deal specifically with three fields: analysis of the process of insertion of youth in society; examination of the attitude of the State with regard to the young; and the behaviour and attitude of young people in connection with government actions. It is hoped by means of this project to generate interaction networks among youth organizations to bring about reciprocal co-operation. Also in the Caribbean region, and in view of interest repeatedly expressed by the CDCC in the topic of adolescent pregnancy, a project is being prepared in collaboration with UNICEF. In addition, a study of the problem of youth and drugs was entrusted to the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), with the co-operation of CDCC.

b) Contributions by ECLAC to other seminars

In the seminar on the situation and prospects of youth in Latin America held at the United Nations Information Centre in Buenos Aires on 30 and 31 July 1985, addressed to students of journalism, the presentation made by ECLAC --and subsequently disseminated by the press-- dealt with the topic of youth in the framework of other problems of change in Latin American communities and of the ability of these communities to construct a future.

At the seminar on State and Private Policies to deal with the Problems of Youth, organized by the National Non-Governmental Committee for the International Youth Year and held in Montevideo in August 1984, ECLAC summarized its main activities in connection with the topic and the essential characteristics of youth that justify its particular consideration in the preparation of policies. Youth was analysed in the context of two parameters: as an object of policy formulation and as a social actor. In discussing main policy orientations, the importance of educational and occupational insertion was emphasized, the latter being related to the problem of unemployment and its significance for the young in developing countries, and consequently to the need for programmes of generation of employment, training and information on available employment opportunities. Family formation and related policies were also discussed. In the matter of health, the lack of

/educational policies

educational policies in this sphere was noted and, with regard to culture, the need to create cultural forms with the participation of young people themselves was again called to mind.

On the occasion of the seminar on Problems and Prospects of the University in Uruguay, held at Montevideo in August 1984, ECLAC submitted comments on the university and future Uruguayan development, emphasizing the relationship of these two factors and considering the transformation of the university as one of the key elements in the social process. With regard to the ability to construct new social forms, the importance was stressed of the scientific levels attained by the universities, of their ability to train human resources and of their capacity to create new areas of university activity linked with the processes of democratization and the consolidation of new forms of social interaction was also emphasized.

On the occasion of the Presentation of the International Youth Year at the United Nations Information Centre in March 1985, ECLAC took part in a seminar on the subject addressed to journalists and representatives of non-governmental organisms. The United Nations Information Centre also organized a seminar to commemorate International Womens' Day in March 1985, devoting the occasion to the situation of young women in Latin America. ECLAC was in charge of that event and submitted a presentation on the subject as well as participating in a forum of experts, government representatives, journalists and representatives of non-governmental bodies.

Presentations were also made on the education and entry into employment of young people from lower-income families (at the seminar-workshop on this subject organized in November 1984 by UNESCO/PREALC/PIIE); on the concept of the young leader as outlined in the Plan of Action (at the Third National Congress of Student Leaders in Chile (July 1984)); on policies and projects for the young (at a workshop organized in Chile by the Association of Non-Governmental Organizations in July 1984); on the problems of and programmes for youth in relation to the International Year (at a national meeting of the Chilean Association of Professional Directors of the Young Men's Christian Association (July 1984)); and for the purpose of dissemination of the diagnosis of youth made by the United Nations (at the Assembly of the Archbishopric of Santiago, Eastern District Youth Mission, in September 1984).

/4. Methodologies

4. Methodologies for the study of youth

An appraisal of methodologies is the indispensable starting point for any in-depth study of Latin American youth and also the necessary first step to make progress on this issue in both concepts and information. On the basis of studies prepared for the first Latin American Regional Meeting, which took place in Costa Rica in 1983, ECLAC has already carried out some work in this area.

The first effort has been conceived as an input for the design of surveys and other types of studies on popular urban youth in Latin America, as well as for the construction of a conceptual framework for the interpretation of the role of youth in the eighties. Starting from a definition of youth, seen as a transitional stage prior and preparatory to taking over the functions typical of the adult, this work proposes a study centered on the relationship between the social situations and cultural orientations that characterize this segment of the population. This work presents an exploration of the existing relation between the orientations of action by the young and the nature assumed by the development process in the Region and states the view that any study on popular youth in the Region should be based on evidence confirming the shortcomings and distortions that have emerged at the state of transition towards modern-type societies. A classification of the different development styles of the Region is proposed, associating these styles both to the different orientations that action may take and to different theoretical positions. This study goes on to examine some recent changes in trends of structural conditions linked to the living conditions of the young (work, education, family) which should be taken into account. It also proposes some of the variables to be included in the preparation of questionnaires used in research on this topic.16/

Another study examines the social stratification of youth in one of the countries of the region, giving special consideration to the repercussions of the educational process, particularly in urban areas. This study proves that the age of joining the workforce becomes a key factor to determine the position of the young, in that possible occupational promotion is strongly associated to educational level. A more complex stratification criterion is proposed for the aggregate study of the various segments of the young population.17/

Another type of methodological exploration has been the "research through images", on the social behaviour of a group of young people from a lower-middle class sector undergoing deteriorating conditions in one of the countries of the Region. This study, exploratory in nature, is an attempt to gain a sounder knowledge of certain sectors by means of the participation of the young from the groups under study in the description of day-to-day events, collection of evidence and reconstruction of situations. Among the main conclusions of this study are the validity of this type of research for gaining deeper insights into the social reality of youth, the importance of the activities carried out as a means of involving the young in reflection on and awareness of their own situation, and the need for this type of study to be complemented by specific programmes and policies.18/

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Along similar exploratory lines, several methodologies applicable to research on the status of young women have been analysed. This work advocates the complementation of quantitative and qualitative methodologies and stresses the importance of life histories, testimonies, semi-structured interviews and other similar instruments that may be used to carry out research on the status of young women in Latin America.19/

5. Some priority issues

The study of youth, both at the regional and national level, has made it possible to identify some priority issues. All the studies and research stress the fact that the status of popular youth, both urban marginal and rural, is one of the main national concerns. Great importance is also assigned to the following sub-issues: participation, development and peace and, given present day conditions prevailing in the Region, such important sub-issues as juvenile labour (employment, unemployment and underemployment), health and education in general. Three additional issues have been selected by the present report as relevant to the work carried out by ECLAC: youth and culture, youth and education and the young woman.

a) Youth and culture

The issue of culture is necessarily linked to research on juvenile identity and the characteristics, values and beliefs shared by the young. Through various activities and studies ECLAC has tackled this issue in connection with education, undergraduates, juvenile exclusion and participation, and the status of young women. Moreover, there has been some specific research on this issue,20/ the objectives of which were to investigate the Latin American cultural context with regard to youth, to analyse the language of the young and its sense within the context of themes such as politics, indifference, anomalies, organization of the young and their motivations and "alienation" of young people, i.e., the transcultural process produced by the social exclusion of juvenile groups. The issue of culture is linked to participation and development, which imply more equitable, universal and realistic forms of education in tune with the needs of society; the right to employment, and a clear conception of the social groups which are most seriously affected by being excluded from social participation. The issue of peace is posited as the basic assumption for all possible progress: it is the essential concept to which the young are entitled and the true alternative for the development of civilization.

b) Youth and education

The issue of education in the training of youth and, consequently, in anticipating the needs of the future society was the main concern of the project on "Development and Education in Latin America and the Caribbean" jointly prepared by ECLAC, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Development Programme. The main concern of these studies was the analysis of the role of education in the changing Latin American societies and of the effects produced by the multiplication and consolidation of the

/differences between

differences between groups: the qualitatively and quantitatively unequal access to education becomes de facto cultural inequality since it not only affects the training of human resources but the very conditions of social integration and participation.

The series of studies resulting from the project on "Development and Education in Latin America and the Caribbean" 21/ forms a very complete collection of information on and analyses of education in a process of change. These studies point out the links between education, social structure, power, forms of production and culture. Although the studies may be of either a regional or a national nature they all have some things in common: a multi-sectoral approach and the reformulation of education as a complex social phenomenon, which defines the formal training of youth and is an indicator of whether the future will bring a society characterized by a minimum of social homogeneity and developed participation capabilities.

The undergraduate segment has been approached in ECLAC's work from different viewpoints.22/ Studies have been carried out on existing relations between the university, social classes and power, and the results have been published. Also, undergraduate youth has been studied as a social movement in a paper that analyses the Latin American political process and the youth movement, with special reference to specific features of this phenomenon in the different historical periods of the Region. Thus, in relation to the period comprised between 1910 and 1930, the emergence of youth ideologies and the movements of university students and their Latin-Americanist features are analysed, the hypothesis being that the juvenile movements of the twenties were, mainly, movements that caught on among university students. The crisis of the thirties was a turning-point in that it implied the strong politicization of youth and was apparently more defining than the notion of juvenile autonomy. After the period comprised between 1940 and 1955, which was characterized by the influence of World War II, young university students associated with development ideology and other new groups of young people appear on the scene. The last part of this study is devoted to reflections on the last two decades and their influence on youth. A further paper tackles this issue from the viewpoint of the conception of undergraduate youth as a social agent, the implications of this approach and its limitations, the effect of the crisis on youth and three very broad spheres that have to do with the young: the social insertion of undergraduates within the context of the process of transformation, the intellectuals' capability to fulfil the role of intermediaries in society, and the possible forms of expression and alliance that undergraduate youth may resort to.

c) The young woman

The issue of the young woman has been present ever since the issue of youth was first considered. The Regional Plan of Action for Latin America and the Caribbean for the International Youth Year adopted by the governments of the Region in 1983 in San José, Costa Rica, acknowledges the fact that this population segment has been the most seriously affected by the conflicts generated by the transformations that have taken place in the Region. In the case of young women,

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the accelerated changes in their educational level and the role of women in society have made all the other changes appear tame by comparison. In addition to all this, their increased incorporation into the economically active population has generated serious conflicts involving working life and family life roles.

It is undeniable that the immediate incorporation of the issue of young women into the wider issue of youth in general is closely linked to the presence and validity of the issue of women in the Region since the International Year and the United Nations Decade for Women, both of which contributed to stimulate critical awareness and have sensitized public opinion. The appraisal of the status of women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the pooling of ideas on this issue and the subsequent practical applications through policy guidelines, technical assistance and formulation of projects became the concern of ECLAC in the early seventies, as a result of recommendations made by the governments of the Region.

During that decade, concern arose for the identification, within the Latin American and Caribbean context, of exclusive and specific issues. Thus, studies were carried out on women of the urban popular sector and on rural women.

The concepts of the Regional Plan of Action in relation to the International Youth Year were sanctioned by the Regional Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean in Preparation for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace.23/ Among other aspects, the Conference stated the need for implementing policies directed to young women in order to help them surmount obstacles and to allow them to make their different roles compatible, achieve a balanced personal realization and give them more effective preparation for the exercise of participation. Given the regional heterogeneity and the differences in the status of young women in the different countries, ECLAC tackled this issue by means of national studies that have made it possible to assess the living conditions of young women and to provide the necessary guidelines for specific measures tending to their effective incorporation.

6. Other activities

The studies carried out in connection with technical seminars of ECLAC stimulated the interest of the Region in the dissemination of results via publication. In a joint effort involving local publishers ECLAC published Ausencia de futuro. La juventud colombiana and Mujeres jóvenes en América Latina: Aportes para una discusión. The publication of other books on the situation of youth in some Latin American countries is in the negotiation stage.

In conjunction with the Secretariat for the International Youth Year of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (Vienna), and with the collaboration of the University of the West Indies, a study has been carried out on the problem of juvenile delinquency in the Caribbean.

/The United

The United Nations Week celebrated at the Santiago ECLAC headquarters (22 to 26 October 1984) was devoted to the dissemination and promotion of the issue of youth. To this end, some public functions were organized with the participation of young people, non-governmental entities and representatives of the Diplomatic Corps. A painting competition was organized for young people to express themselves on the theme of "Peace and Solidarity". Over 500 works were entered, and the winners were awarded the United Nations Medal for Peace. Similarly, a video was produced to cover the different artistic events of the week and interviews with different young people. This video is being released in the Region.

During the whole period ECLAC has been working in close collaboration with the Secretariat for the International Youth Year of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in Vienna. In addition to the above-mentioned activities, ECLAC has taken part in the joint organization of the Buenos Aires technical seminar and the seminar for the countries of the Andean area, in the interorganizational consultation on the International Youth Year (Vienna, 29-30 March 1984) and in the meetings of the Advisory Committee for the Internationa Youth Year.

ECLAC has collaborated actively with the Association for Non-Governmental Entities of Chile in projects, support for dissemination activities, encounters and other events for the promotion and dissemination of the International Youth Year.

Among the co-operation and technical assistance missions carried out by ECLAC in this period, the following are worth noting: for the Ministry of Youth and Women of Venezuela, ECLAC analysed different policy alternatives for youth. For the National Planning Office of Colombia, and with the participation of the policy-making agencies of Colombia, some ECLAC lines of action and the nature of the status of youth in Colombia were studied (September 1984). ECLAC also collaborated with the Youth Secretariat for the Province of Córdoba (Argentina) in the identification of problems and strategies related to youth and gave its support to the First National and Multi-Sectoral Congress for Youth through a study on Argentine youth. The Non-Governmental Committee for the International Youth Year of Uruguay was given ECLAC support by means of a presentation dealing with policies for the development of youth participation and satisfaction of youth's needs at the closing session on the Committee's annual activities (December 1984).

To date four "Notes on the economy and development of Latin America" dealing with youth have been published. The first one 24/ was devoted to publicizing the situation, needs and future prospects of youth at the regional level: the importance of the young population in Latin America and the Caribbean, its share in the economically active population, the growing importance of juvenile labour, and the problem of unemployment and underemployment. The changes in the education of Latin American young people were listed, with special reference to two categories: marginal urban youth and rural youth. This work outlines the repercussions of the crisis and the problems of social policy. The second "Note" 25/ stresses the three great themes of the International Youth Year --participation, development and peace-- and explains their importance in relation

/to youth.

to youth. Some crucial aspects of the youth issue are briefly dealt with: the reality of youth in the Region, youth in its dual role of object of policies and social agent, regional strategy for youth, and actions and stages of the Plan of Action adopted for the Region.

The third "Note" 26/ contains a message to youth, which analyses in depth the ethical content of the work carried out by the United Nations, the role of youth throughout history, its values and the challenge posed by today's world: all the young people of the world should have access to education, culture and training in conditions of equality.

The fourth "Note" 27/ deals with young women, their situation in the Region during the eighties, the changes undergone and the possibilities that they have for living to the full their youthful condition. The "Note" outlines the actions carried out by ECLAC vis-à-vis young women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

ECLAC is at present collaborating with the Instituto de Cooperación Iberoamericana (ICI) and the Dirección Nacional de Juventud of the Ministry of Culture of Spain in the organization of an Ibero-American technical seminar for experts on youth issues. This meeting would take place in September 1985 in Spain and would deal with the following aspects: approaches to the situation of youth vis-à-vis the future in Latin America and Spain, the effects of the crisis on Ibero-American youth; the activities of youth vis-à-vis the political phenomenon; governmental and administrative policies (both autonomous and local) to achieve the participation of youth in development and society and, finally, the prospects for co-operation on the topic of youth between Spain and Latin America.

Notes

1/ ECLAC, Situation and prospects of youth in Latin America (E/CEPAL/Conf.75/12) Santiago, Chile, August 1983.

2/ José Medina Echavarría La juventud latinoamericana como campo de investigación social, paper read at the Conferencia Latinoamericana sobre la Infancia y la Juventud en el Desarrollo Nacional, ST/ECLA/Conf.20/L.11, Santiago, Chile, 25 November 1965.

3/ See United Nations General Assembly resolution 34/151 of 17 December 1979 quoting resolution 2037(XX) of 7 December 1965 and resolution 2659(XXV) of 7 December 1970.

4/ ECLAC, Report of the Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting for the International Youth Year (E/CEPAL/G.1285) Santiago, Chile, January 1984.

5/ ECLAC, Regional Plan of Action for Latin America and the Caribbean for the International Youth Year (E/CEPAL/1287), Santiago, Chile, January 1984.

6/ ECLAC, Report of the Regional Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean in Preparation for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (LC/G.2339), Santiago, Chile, January 1985.

7/ Cecilia Braslasvsky, Juventud y sociedad en la Argentina (LC/R.401), Santiago, Chile, January 1985.

8/ Gloria Ardaya, Juventud: situación y perspectiva en Bolivia, preliminary version, 1985.

9/ Felicia Madeira, Os jovens e as mudancas estructurais no Brasil ao longo da década de 70 (LC/R.443), Santiago, Chile, June 1985.

10/ Rodrigo Parra, Juventud y sociedad en Colombia (E/CEPAL/R.334), Santiago, Chile, April 1984.

11/ Javier Martínez, Juventud y exclusión social: el caso chileno (LC/R.433), Santiago, Chile, June 1985. Also see ECLAC, La modernización de la estructura económica y el empleo de la juventud urbana popular en Chile: evolución hasta el presente y panorama para el futuro (LC/R.378), Santiago, Chile, December 1984.

12/ Javier Martínez, La estratificación social de la juventud: el caso de Ecuador (LC/R.389), Santiago, Chile, November 1984.

13/ Julio Cotler, La radicalización política de la juventud popular del Perú (LC/R.430), Santiago, Chile, May 1985.

14/ Juan Pablo Terra, La juventud uruguaya en el proceso nacional de los últimos veinte años (LC/R.432), Santiago, Chile, June 1985.

15/ The papers delivered at the seminar were collected in the book Mujeres Jóvenes en América Latina: aportes para una discusión, Editorial ARCA, Montevideo.

16/ Javier Martínez, Consideraciones previas para un estudio de la juventud popular urbana en América Latina, CEPAL, LC/R.374, Santiago, Chile, 1984.

17/ Javier Martínez, La estratificación social de la juventud (op. cit.).

18/ Raúl Lira, et al., Un instrumento nuevo en el análisis social: 'Entre Rieles' - etapas y desarrollo de una experiencia en video interdisciplinaria (LC/R.371), Santiago, Chile, October 1984.

19/ ECLAC, Mujeres jóvenes en América Latina..., op. cit.

20/ Carlos Martínez Moreno, Una meditación sobre la juventud y la cultura (E/CEPAL/R.362), Santiago, Chile, July 1984.

21/ See the following studies of the Project on Development and Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (co-sponsored by UNESCO/ECLAC/UNDP) which were published in 1984 by Kapelusz, Buenos Aires, in its series "Educación y Sociedad": C. Borsotti, Sociedad rural, educación y escuela en América Latina; R. Nassif, G.W. Rama and J.C. Tedesco, El sistema educativo en América Latina; R. Parra, G.W. Rama, J. Rivero Herrera and J.C. Tedesco, La educación popular en América Latina; G.W. Rama, Educación, participación y estilos de desarrollo en América Latina, and G. Weinberg, Modelos educativos en la historia de América Latina.

22/ In this connection, see Germán W. Rama, Jorge Graciarena, et al., Universidad, clases sociales y poder, Caracas, Editorial Ateneo de Caracas/CENDES, 1982; UNESCO/ECLAC/UNDP, Desarrollo y educación en América Latina. Síntesis general Vol. 4, November 1981; Faletto, Enzo, Juventud y política: la juventud como movimiento social en América Latina, preliminary version, Santiago, Chile, ECLAC, 1984 and ECLAC, Reflexiones sobre la juventud universitaria como actor social en América Latina (LC/R.399), Santiago, Chile, December 1984.

23/ ECLAC, Report of the Regional Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean in Preparation for the World Conference ..., op. cit.

24/ ECLAC, "Situación y perspectivas de la juventud en América Latina", Notas sobre la economía y el desarrollo de América Latina No. 381, Santiago, Chile, Servicios de Información, July 1983.

25/ ECLAC, "1985 Año Internacional de la Juventud", Notas sobre la economía y el desarrollo de América Latina, No. 401/402, Santiago, Chile, Servicios de Información, September 1984.

26/ Enrique V. Iglesias, "Un mensaje para la juventud ...", ibid., No. 412, Santiago, Chile, February 1985.

27/ ECLAC, ibid., No. 418 (in the press).